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Kennedy, John F.

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Kennedy Mystery Woman Trying to Sell 'Memoirs'

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Mystery woman Judith Campbell Exner, who created a stir by revealing her links to John F. Kennedy and two Mafia kingpins, is trying to sell her "memoirs" for an estimated \$2 million, The Times learned Tuesday.

The attractive, dark-haired artist retained literary agent Scott Meredith after her San Diego attorney, Brian Monaghan, was unsuccessful in several attempts to place the proposed book with New York publishers.

Mrs. Exner, 41, said her relationship with the late President was "of a close, personal nature" during the 13 to 14 months they saw each other after they were introduced by singer Frank Sinatra Feb. 7, 1960, in Las Vegas.

She also disclosed her personal relationships with underworld figures Sam (Momo) Giancana, slain Chicago mobster, and his protege, John Rosselli, but denied having any knowledge of CIA-Mafia plots to assassinate Fidel Castro.

During a press conference last Dec. 17, Mrs. Exner refused to say if she had been Kennedy's lover, but did say the full facts about her relationships had been transcribed, documented and stored.

At the same time, she emphatically denied any plans to hire an agent or write a book.

However, part of her transcribed material apparently is included among the 26 typewritten pages Mrs.

Exner sent Meredith so the agent's staff could prepare an outline of her story.

The proposed Exner book apparently will focus on five basic topics:

—The Kennedy family and the extent of her relationship with the slain President, as well as her feelings toward the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Los Angeles, and their younger brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), whom she apparently did not like.

—The underworld and her involvement with both Giancana and Rosselli, their connections within the entertainment industry, Giancana's murder 10 days before he was scheduled to testify before a Senate committee and Rosselli's role in the CIA plot to kill Castro.

—The FBI and the late J. Edgar Hoover, whom Mrs. Exner accused of directing "a top priority investigation" of her that she characterized as

"prying, insidious and sounding more like a scandal sheet than a government investigation."

—The entertainment industry and the nature of her relationship with Sinatra and other celebrities, including Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, Kennedy's former brother-in-law, and Sammy Davis Jr.

—The Senate Intelligence Committee, which Mrs. Exner claims "leaked" portions of her testimony after she appeared as a witness Sept. 20, 1975, during an investigation of possible links between the Mafia and the CIA in plots to assassinate the Cuban dictator.

Meredith, whose New York agency represents a number of noted writers, said he already has offers exceeding \$250,000 for foreign and national magazine rights to serialize Mrs. Exner's story "and a hundred requests from book publishers to get in on the bidding."

Meredith said in a telephone interview that he thinks Mrs. Exner "just plans to tell the truth . . . naming names and giving dates . . . about something she didn't really want to talk about."

She was antagonized by the way the Senate committee treated her, and further antagonized by the way the White House people refused to admit knowing her or referred to her as a pest, Meredith said.